

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT AUDITION INFORMATION FOR 2024 APPLICANTS

For first study pianists and violinists, the initial stage of our 2024 application process will be online/digital. We plan that all other auditions (including final round auditions for pianists and violinists) will be held in person at the RCM main campus in South Kensington.

The deadline for completing our online application form will be Friday 1 March. We have done everything we can to ensure that the form is straightforward to navigate, but we strongly encourage you to access the form well before deadline, in order to allow time for us to respond to any issues that you might have (please send queries to jd@rcm.ac.uk).

In addition to completing the online application form, first study piano and violin candidates will be expected to **upload video recordings** of their performances to our secure online portal **by the end of Monday 4 March**. Outline details of online submission requirements are overleaf.

Our expected audition timeline is below. Please advise via the online application form of pre-existing clashes you have with any of these dates. Due to the complexities of the audition scheduling process, it is not possible for candidates to select a particular audition date. We will do what we can to work with candidates' declared availability, but we cannot guarantee to accommodate applicants with very limited availability. It is expected that, where necessary, auditionees will need to be excused from school to attend a live audition if offered. If you are unable to make any of the relevant live audition dates, please get in touch (jd@rcm.ac.uk) and note this in your application – you may be asked to submit online video recordings submissions in lieu.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 1 March	Online application form submission deadline
Monday 4 March	Video recordings upload deadline (see next page for submission instructions)
Saturday 9 March	Live single-round audition invitations emailed from RCMJD by end of day
Tuesday 19 – Friday 22 March	Live single-round auditions
Tuesday 26 – Thursday 28 March	Live single-round auditions
Wednesday 27 March	1st study pianist and violinist video audition results sent by email from JD office by end of day (with live final round audition invitations if applicable)
Monday 8 – Friday 12 April	Live single-round auditions; final round piano and violin auditions
Tuesday 16 – Thursday 18 April	Live single-round auditions; final round piano and violin auditions
Friday 19 April	Final audition results emailed from RCMJD by end of day
Wednesday 1 May	Responses to all offer letters expected

(continued overleaf)

LATE APPLICATIONS

We may offer auditions outside our main audition period and/or accept late applications in exceptional circumstances – please contact the Junior Department office via jd@rcm.ac.uk if this is relevant to you.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

(NB please also refer to our Auditions Special Conditions & Requirements document)

FIRST ROUND ONLINE/DIGITAL AUDITIONS

First round audition panels (for first study pianists and violinists) will convene digitally, reviewing the video recordings that candidates have provided. Requirements for video submissions are as follows:

First study: two short, contrasting pieces

Second study: one short piece (NB optional at this stage, and only if the applicant's form indicates they wish second study lessons to be part of their RCMJD programme if they are successful at audition).

Please note that the overall duration of all pieces to be performed should be no more than 15 minutes.

The setup of the recording for each performed piece will be at your discretion (whether it be filmed at a live concert or at home, school etc). In all cases, our audition panels will appreciate it if the video and audio can be as high quality as possible (reasonable-quality recordings can be made on most mobile phones). The camera should remain as static as possible during each recording, and the applicant should be on screen throughout. When considering your camera angle, please bear in mind that the audition panel will need to look at the candidate's posture and technique. Finally, please don't edit recordings – each piece must be presented in one continuous shot.

It's preferable that pieces that have accompaniment are performed in this way (either with a live pianist or pre-recorded backing track). This gives our panel insight into how the applicant interacts with another musical line. However, if circumstances dictate that this isn't possible, performances of just the solo part are acceptable. Recordings should be as recent as is practical.

Detailed instructions about how to upload recordings to our online portal will only be distributed to candidates' parents/guardians once we have reviewed your application, which may take a few days. It is therefore advisable to complete your online application form as soon as you can, to then give yourself as much time as possible to record and upload your audition materials.

SINGLE/FINAL ROUND AUDITIONS

We are aiming that single and final round auditions will be held in person at the RCM main campus in South Kensington.

For live auditions, individual study requirements are the same as for first round online auditions (see above). For final round piano and violin auditions, candidates should present performances of the pieces that they have submitted for their first round video audition. In addition, candidates will be asked to undertake aural tests, first study sight reading and a discussion with the audition panel.

You will need to use our official accompanist and will have time to rehearse with them before your audition.

(continued overleaf)

AUDITION RESULTS

Results will be sent directly to parents/guardians by email as soon as possible after the audition period. If you are offered a place you will have a little time to decide whether you wish to accept the offer. There will be an opportunity to visit the Department before decisions are required.

If you decide to accept you will also need to decide (by the acceptance deadline) on which instruments you wish to have individual tuition, and whether you require standard length or extended lessons (for which there is an extra cost). You must also familiarise yourself with what the RCMJD offers and what is expected of students and parents before accepting your place, and will be asked to sign your agreement to our Regulations and Code of Conduct.

The decision of the audition panel is final and we regret that we are unable to enter into correspondence about results, owing to the large volume of applications we receive.

January 2024